



BENEDICTINE SISTERS of BALTIMORE  
Emmanuel Monastery

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February 28, 2018

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman  
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Nanci Langley  
Commissioner Mark Acton  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

*We, the Benedictine Sisters of Emmanuel Monastery, are a community of monastic women who seek God through prayer, community life, and ministry, bringing a 1500-year tradition into the 21st century. Empowered by the Word of God, we claim our gifts as women in the Church, with an intentional commitment to justice and peace, offering hospitable space in a culture that fosters hostility. We serve persons with material and spiritual needs in a variety of ministerial settings and challenge structures that diminish human dignity. Because we bear the name Emmanuel, God with us, we commit ourselves to be a presence of God in our world.*

(over)

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will almost double our operational and fundraising postal expenses negatively impacting fundraising efforts to support the health and well-being of our aging sisters, our monastery, and those we serve with material and spiritual needs. Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Sr. Patricia Kirk, OSB  
Prioress